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[Signature]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Frank Filser et al. Confirmation No.: 1826  
Serial No. : 09/623,268  
Filed : August 30, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 1731  
Examiner : J. M. Hoffmann

Docket No. : 00-497  
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111(C)

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated July 8, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire October 8, 2004, having been extended for two months so as to expire on December 8, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on Page 10 of this paper.